Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics

Aboriginal Identity
- 1996 Census Results -

Northwest Territories

During 1996 a census of all Canadians was conducted by Statistics Canada. This report is one of a series outlining results for the Northwest Territories and its communities. Specifically, this report contains information on the characteristics of the aboriginal population describing: (i) identity; (ii) age and sex; (iii) family status and (iv) the use of aboriginal languages. Planned release dates for other variables from the 1996 census are provided at the end of this report.

The results from the 1996 census show that the Northwest Territories had a total aboriginal population of 39,510. At 62%, the Northwest Territories reported the largest percentage aboriginal population of all provinces and territories. The Yukon ranked second with 20% of its total population reporting an aboriginal identity, while in the remaining provinces aboriginal persons comprised between 12% for Manitoba and 1% for Prince Edward Island. Overall, aboriginal people represent 3% of the total population of Canada.

For the 39,510 aboriginal persons in the Northwest Territories, 28% reported North American Indian, 9% reported Métis and 62% reported Inuit as their respective aboriginal identity. Overall, the aboriginal population in the Northwest Territories represents 5% of the total aboriginal population in Canada. For specific groups, territorial aboriginal people comprise 2% of the North American Indians, 2% of the Métis and 61% of the Inuit population of Canada.

Comparisons of the percentage of males and females for the Northwest Territories show that the aboriginal population was comprised of 51% males and 49% females. The non-aboriginal population for the Northwest Territories was slightly skewed with 54% males and 46% females. Analysis of the age distribution in the Northwest Territories indicates a very young aboriginal population, with 40% of aboriginal persons under the age of 15. This compares to 21% for the non-aboriginal population. The age distribution of the aboriginal population reveals the higher birth rates among aboriginal persons. For example, for the aboriginal population of the Northwest Territories there were a total of 618 children under the age of 5 for every 1,000 females between 15 and 44 years of age. This compare to 291 children under the age of 5 per 1,000 females 15 to 44 years of age for the NWT non-aboriginal population. Comparable data for Canada indicates the number of children under the age of 5 per 1,000 females 15 to 44 years old is 491 for aboriginal persons and 283 for non-aboriginal persons.

Slightly more than 87% of the total aboriginal population for the Northwest Territories were living in a family at the time of the 1996 census. In total, 32% of the aboriginal population in the Northwest Territories were married or in a common law relationship and 5% of the aboriginal population reported being lone parents. This compares to 83% reported living in a family for the entire Canadian aboriginal population. Similarly, 31% of the Canadian aboriginal population were married or in a common-law relationship and 7% reported being lone parents at the time of the Census.

Overall 62% of the aboriginal population in the Northwest Territories reported an aboriginal mother tongue. For individuals reporting an aboriginal mother tongue, Inuktitut was by far the most common at 75% followed by South Slave and Dogrib at 8% and Chipewyan at 2%. For individuals reporting an aboriginal mother tongue, 98% reported still having the ability to speak an aboriginal language. Perhaps of greater interest is the fact that for the 15,160 individuals reporting a non-aboriginal mother tongue, only 18% reported the ability to speak an aboriginal language.

Comparisons of Nunavut and the Western NWT show that the total population of Nunavut is 84% aboriginal and Inuit represent 99% of the reported aboriginal population. In the West only 48% of the total population reported an aboriginal identity. For those reporting an aboriginal identity in the West, 58% reported Dene, 21% reported Inuit and 19% reported Métis.

Table 96.1 Population, by Aboriginal Identity
Territories, Provinces and Canada, Census 1996

	Total Population	Aboriginal Identity					Non-Aboriginal
		Total Aboriginal	North American Indian	Métis	Inuit	Multiple Responses	
Canada	28,528,125	779,790	529,035	204,115	40,225	6,415	27,748,330
(%)	100.0	2.7	1.9	0.7	0.1	-	97.3
Northwest Territories	64,120	39,510	11,065	3,745	24,505	190	24,615
(%)	100.0	61.6	17.3	5.8	38.2	0.3	38.4
Nunavut	24,665	20,690	90	80	20,480	35	3,975
(%)	100.0	83.9	0.4	0.3	83.0	0.1	16.1
Western NWT	39,460	19,000	10,980	3,665	4,025	155	20,460
(%)	100.0	48.2	27.8	9.3	10.2	0.4	51.8
Yukon	30,655	6,005	5,330	550	95	25	24,645
(%)	100.0	19.6	17.4	1.8	0.3	-	80.4
British Columbia	3,689,755	134,890	107,370	25,575	740	1,200	3,554,865
(%)	100.0	3.7	2.9	0.7	-	-	96.3
Alberta	2,669,195	120,580	69,145	49,490	615	1,325	2,548,615
(%)	100.0	4.5	2.6	1.9	-	-	95.5
Saskatchewan	976,615	109,545	72,830	35,855	165	685	867,075
(%)	100.0	11.2	7.5	3.7	-	-	88.8
Manitoba	1,100,295	127,070	80,615	45,365	245	840	973,225
(%)	100.0	11.5	7.3	4.1	-	-	88.5
Ontario	10,642,790	136,860	112,825	21,530	1,150	1,350	10,505,935
(%)	100.0	1.3	1.1	0.2	-	-	98.7
Quebec	7,045,080	69,355	45,015	15,560	8,235	545	6,975,725
(%)	100.0	1.0	0.6	0.2	0.1	-	99.0
New Brunswick	729,630	9,870	8,780	950	110	30	719,750
(%)	100.0	1.4	1.2	0.1	-	-	98.6
Nova Scotia	899,970	11,985	10,910	825	210	30	887,985
(%)	100.0	1.3	1.2	-	-	-	98.7
Prince Edward Island	132,855	915	780	110	10	10	131,940
(%)	100.0	0.7	0.6	-	-	-	99.3
Newfoundland	547,160	13,210	4,355	4,555	4,120	175	533,950
(%)	100.0	2.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	-	97.6

Figure 96.1 Aboriginal Population as a Percentage of Total Population
Nunavut and Western NWT, Census 1996

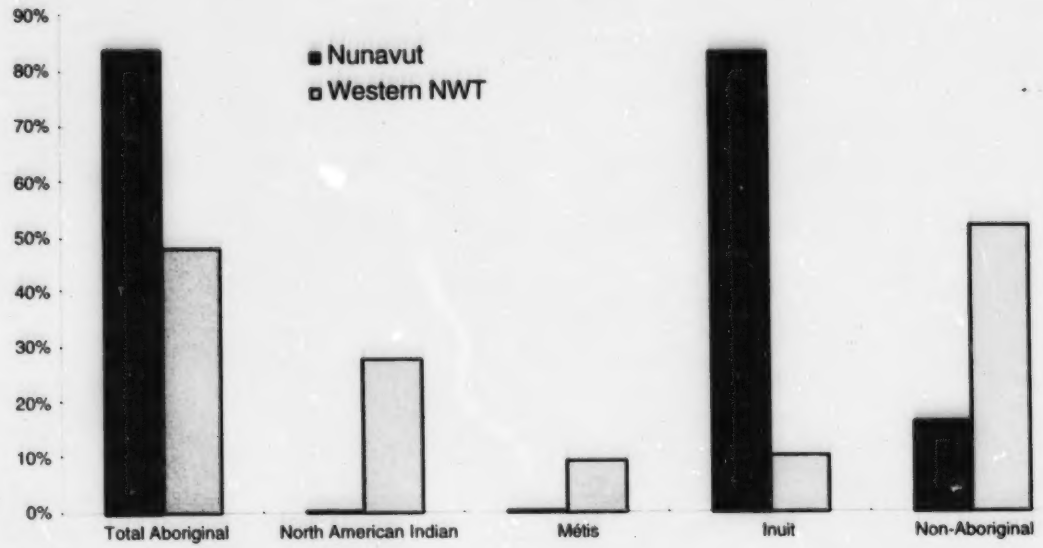

Figure 96.2 NWT Aboriginal Population
as a Percentage of Total Canadian Aboriginal Population
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

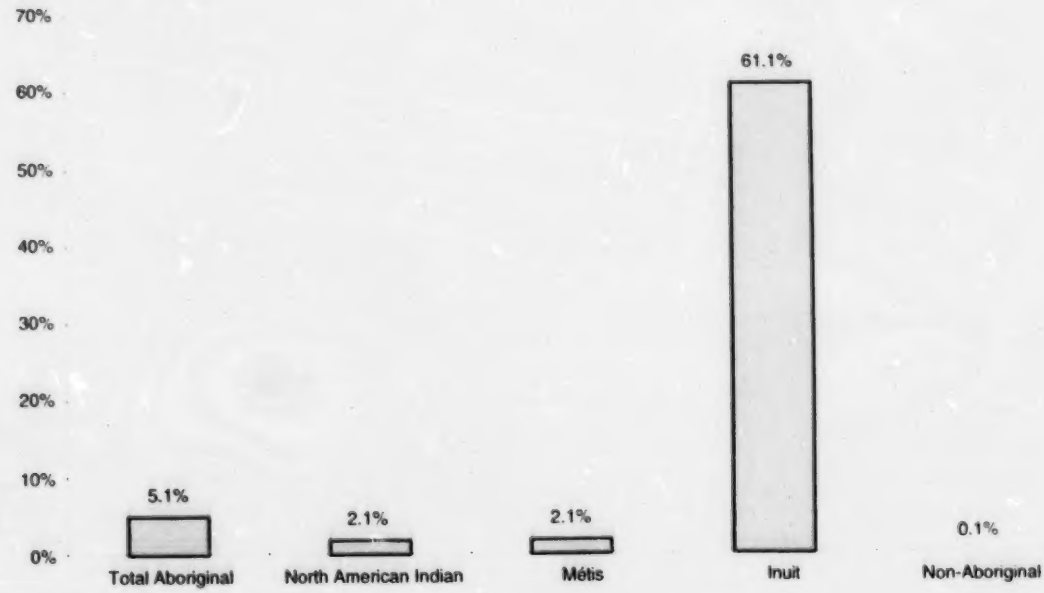

Table 96.2 Population, by Aboriginal Identity, Age and Sex
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	All Persons	(%)	Aboriginal	(%)	Non-Aboriginal	(%)
Total	64,125	100.0	39,695	100.0	24,430	100.0
0-4 Years	7,560	11.8	5,610	14.1	1,950	8.0
5-9 Years	7,290	11.4	5,555	14.0	1,735	7.1
10-14 Years	6,125	9.6	4,555	11.5	1,560	6.4
15-19 Years	5,325	8.3	3,905	9.8	1,420	5.8
20-24 Years	4,975	7.8	3,310	8.3	1,670	6.8
25-34 Years	12,195	19.0	6,625	16.7	5,565	22.8
35-44 Years	9,790	15.3	4,230	10.7	5,560	22.8
45-54 Years	6,145	9.6	2,730	6.9	3,415	14.0
55-64 Years	2,880	4.5	1,750	4.4	1,140	4.7
65 Years and Over	1,840	2.9	1,415	3.6	420	1.7
Male	33,215	100.0	20,070	100.0	13,145	100.0
0-4 Years	3,885	11.7	2,860	14.3	1,025	7.8
5-9 Years	3,690	11.1	2,820	14.1	865	6.6
10-14 Years	3,240	9.8	2,405	12.0	835	6.4
15-19 Years	2,730	8.2	1,985	9.9	745	5.7
20-24 Years	2,515	7.6	1,675	8.3	840	6.4
25-34 Years	6,115	18.4	3,280	16.3	2,835	21.6
35-44 Years	5,150	15.5	2,055	10.2	3,095	23.5
45-54 Years	3,365	10.1	1,380	6.9	1,985	15.1
55-64 Years	1,560	4.7	875	4.4	685	5.2
65 Years and Over	970	2.9	735	3.7	235	1.8
Female	30,905	100.0	19,625	100.0	11,285	100.0
0-4 Years	3,680	11.9	2,755	14.0	920	8.2
5-9 Years	3,600	11.6	2,735	13.9	865	7.7
10-14 Years	2,885	9.3	2,155	11.0	730	6.5
15-19 Years	2,595	8.4	1,925	9.8	675	6.0
20-24 Years	2,460	8.0	1,635	8.3	830	7.4
25-34 Years	6,075	19.7	3,345	17.0	2,730	24.2
35-44 Years	4,635	15.0	2,170	11.1	2,460	21.8
45-54 Years	2,780	9.0	1,345	6.9	1,435	12.7
55-64 Years	1,325	4.3	875	4.5	450	4.0
65 Years and Over	865	2.8	685	3.5	185	1.6

Figure 96.3 Percent Distribution, by Age
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

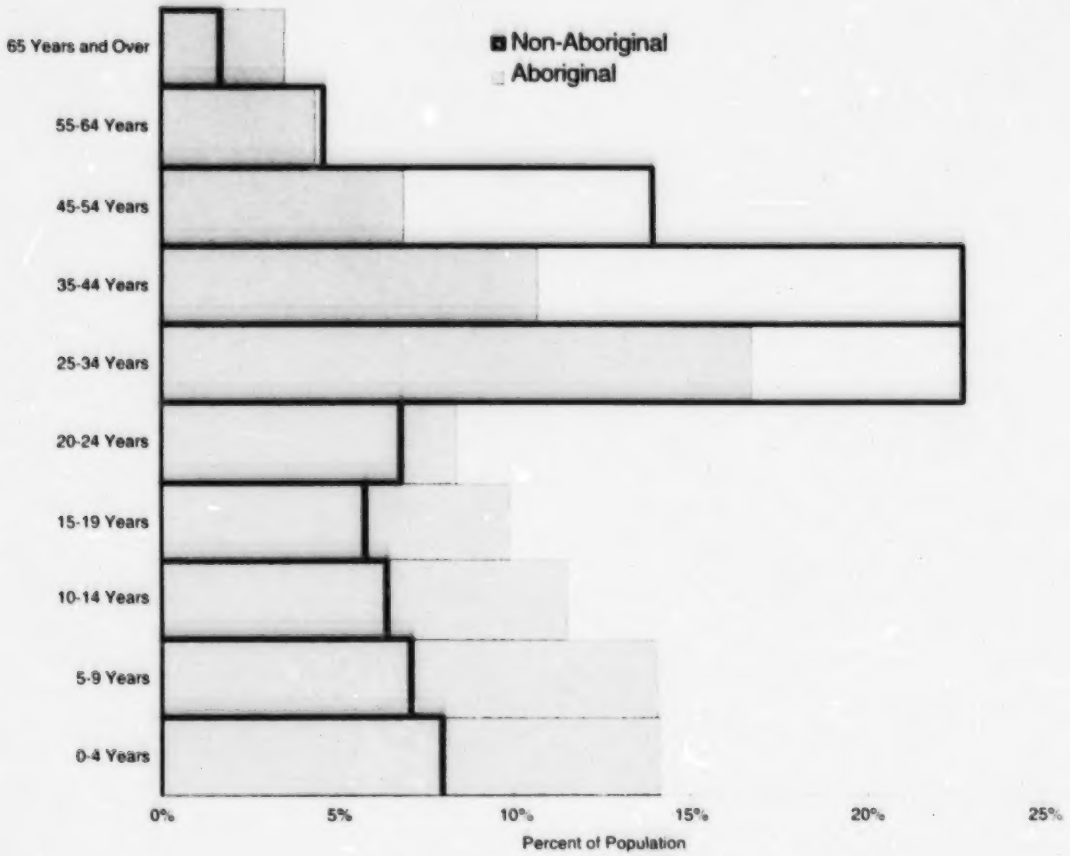

Table 96.3 Aboriginal Population, by Age and Family Status
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	Total	0-4 Years	5-9 Years	10-14 Years	15-19 Years	20-24 Years	25-34 Years	35-44 Years	45-54 Years	55-64 Years	65 Yrs. & Over
Total	39,565	5,605	5,545	4,555	3,895	3,290	6,595	4,210	2,710	1,740	1,415
Number in Families	34,545	5,075	5,105	4,160	3,380	2,740	5,640	3,705	2,330	1,450	950
Husbands or Wives	7,230	-	-	-	15	190	1,725	1,965	1,620	1,065	660
Common-Law Partners	5,485	-	-	-	305	1,020	2,445	1,130	400	135	45
Lone Parents	1,900	-	-	-	25	140	580	425	260	230	240
Never-Married	19,930	5,075	5,105	4,165	3,040	1,390	890	185	55	20	-
Total Not in Families	5,015	525	440	395	515	550	960	505	380	290	460
Living with Relatives	2,795	465	385	320	375	305	375	160	100	105	210
Living with Non-Relatives	875	65	60	75	130	150	225	95	50	20	15
Living Alone	1,350	-	-	-	-	90	360	260	235	170	235

Table 96.4 Aboriginal Population, by Knowledge of Aboriginal Languages and Mother Tongue
Northwest Territories, Census 1996

	Aboriginal Population	Total Knowledge of Aboriginal Languages	Inuktitut	South Slave	Dogrib	Chipewyan	Cree	Ojibway	Other
Total Mother Tongue	39,690	26,805	20,270	2,625	2,380	740	290	30	695
Total Single Responses	38,945	26,165	19,810	2,560	2,335	715	270	25	670
English	14,995	2,700	1,570	445	350	150	80	10	130
French	155	45	-	15	-	10	10	-	-
Aboriginal Languages	23,780	23,420	18,235	2,095	1,980	555	180	20	540
Inuktitut	18,415	18,235	18,230	-	-	-	-	-	-
South Slave	2,080	2,055	-	2,045	20	10	10	-	10
Dogrib	1,995	1,935	-	30	1,930	45	-	10	15
Chipewyan	515	485	-	-	15	485	-	-	-
Cree	180	170	-	-	-	15	170	-	-
Ojibway	25	20	-	-	-	-	-	20	-
Other	570	525	-	15	10	-	-	-	505
Non-Aboriginal Languages	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Multiple Responses	750	640	460	65	40	30	25	10	30

Table 96.5 Aboriginal Population, by Community
Northwest Territories, Census Years 1996 & 1991

			Aboriginal Identity						
		Total Population	Total	Inuit	Dene	Métis	Multiple	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Northwest Territories	1996	64,125	39,690	24,505	11,070	3,745	190	185	24,435
	1991	57,649	35,302	21,565	9,647	4,090	...	...	22,347
Nunavut	1996	24,665	20,690	20,480	90	80	35	10	3,975
	1991	21,244	18,147	18,017	60	70	...	...	3,097
Western NWT	1996	39,460	19,000	4,025	10,980	3,665	155	175	20,460
	1991	36,405	17,155	3,548	9,587	4,020	...	...	19,250
Baffin Region	1996	13,180	10,555	10,470	40	30	10	-	2,630
	1991	11,385	9,328	9,263	26	39	...	...	2,057
Arctic Bay	1996	640	590	590	10	-	-	-	45
	1991	543	515	502	5	8	...	...	28
Broughton Island	1996	490	470	465	-	-	-	-	25
	1991	461	439	437	-	2	...	...	22
Cape Dorset	1996	1,115	1,010	1,010	-	-	-	-	105
	1991	961	907	902	-	5	...	...	54
Clyde River	1996	710	665	665	-	-	-	-	40
	1991	565	539	539	-	-	...	...	26
Grise Fiord	1996	145	135	135	-	-	-	-	10
	1991	130	119	119	-	-	...	...	11
Hall Beach	1996	545	500	500	-	-	-	-	40
	1991	526	496	491	5	-	...	...	30
Igloolik	1996	1,175	1,075	1,075	-	-	-	-	95
	1991	936	898	888	-	10	...	...	38
Iqaluit	1996	4,180	2,600	2,555	25	20	-	-	1,585
	1991	3,552	2,275	2,255	11	9	...	...	1,277
Kimmirut	1996	395	360	355	-	-	10	-	40
	1991	365	344	343	1	-	...	...	21
Nanisivik	1996	285	45	40	-	10	-	-	240
	1991	294	101	101	-	-	...	...	193
Pangnirtung	1996	1,240	1,160	1,160	-	-	-	-	80
	1991	1,135	1,074	1,073	1	-	...	...	61
Pond Inlet	1996	1,150	1,085	1,085	-	-	-	-	70
	1991	974	919	914	-	5	...	...	55
Resolute Bay	1996	200	160	155	-	-	-	-	40
	1991	171	114	111	3	-	...	...	57
Sanikiluaq	1996	630	590	590	10	10	-	-	40
	1991	526	496	496	-	-	...	...	30

Table 96.5 Aboriginal Population, by Community
Northwest Territories, Census Years 1996 & 1991

			Aboriginal Identity						
		Total Population	Total	Inuit	Dene	Métis	Multiple	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Keewatin Region	1996	6,850	6,065	5,980	35	30	15	-	785
	1991	5,834	5,211	5,176	21	14	...	...	623
Arviat	1996	1,550	1,470	1,465	10	-	-	-	80
	1991	1,323	1,243	1,235	4	4	...	...	80
Baker Lake	1996	1,385	1,275	1,250	10	10	10	-	110
	1991	1,186	1,059	1,052	7	-	...	...	127
Chesterfield Inlet	1996	330	305	305	-	-	-	-	25
	1991	316	296	296	-	-	...	...	20
Coral Harbour	1996	670	625	625	-	-	-	-	40
	1991	578	550	550	-	-	...	...	28
Rankin Inlet	1996	2,055	1,575	1,540	15	15	10	-	480
	1991	1,706	1,374	1,354	10	10	...	...	332
Repulse Bay	1996	560	530	525	10	-	-	-	30
	1991	488	467	467	-	-	..	...	21
Whale Cove	1996	300	280	285	-	-	-	-	20
	1991	235	220	220	-	-	.	...	15
Kitikmeot Region	1996	5,055	4,475	4,430	15	30	10	10	580
	1991	4,386	3,950	3,920	13	17	.	...	436
Bay Chimo	1996	50	55	50	-	-	-	-	0
	1991	53	53	53	-	-		...	0
Cambridge Bay	1996	1,350	1,025	1,005	10	10	-	-	320
	1991	1,116	845	828	1	16	..	..	271
Gjoa Haven	1996	875	835	825	10	-	-	-	45
	1991	783	758	752	6	-	...	...	25
Holman	1996	420	405	400	-	10	-	-	20
	1991	361	342	342	-	-	...	...	19
Kugluktuk	1996	1,200	1,070	1,065	-	-	-	-	125
	1991	1,059	985	981	3	1	...	...	74
Pelly Bay	1996	495	470	465	-	-	10	-	25
	1991	409	395	395	-	-	..	...	14
Taloyoak	1996	640	605	600	-	10	-	-	40
	1991	580	547	544	3	-	..	...	33

Table 96.5 Aboriginal Population, by Community
Northwest Territories, Census Years 1996 & 1991

			Aboriginal Identity						
		Total Population	Total	Inuit	Dene	Métis	Multiple	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Inuvik Region	1996	8,980	6,570	2,885	3,045	550	35	50	2,410
	1991	8,491	6,255	2,788	2,686	781	...	...	2,236
Aklavik	1996	710	645	400	165	30	15	40	65
	1991	801	751	432	238	81	...	...	50
Colville Lake	1996	90	85	-	85	-	-	-	0
	1991	69	67	2	62	3	...	...	2
Déline	1996	610	565	-	535	15	-	10	50
	1991	551	520	8	509	3	...	...	31
Fort Good Hope	1996	640	580	-	525	50	10	-	65
	1991	602	561	9	469	83	...	...	41
Fort McPherson	1996	875	795	35	710	50	-	-	85
	1991	759	699	17	591	91	...	...	60
Inuvik	1996	3,270	1,895	1,210	460	220	10	10	1,370
	1991	3,206	1,808	1,114	370	324	...	...	1,398
Norman Wells	1996	800	195	25	80	85	-	-	605
	1991	627	112	7	35	70	...	...	515
Paulatuk	1996	275	250	250	-	-	-	-	25
	1991	255	245	244	-	1	...	...	10
Sachs Harbour	1996	135	125	120	10	-	-	-	10
	1991	125	113	111	-	2	...	...	12
Tsiigehtchic	1996	160	155	10	125	20	10	-	10
	1991	144	139	12	77	50	...	...	5
Tuktoyaktuk	1996	940	855	830	20	10	-	-	85
	1991	918	831	804	18	9	...	...	87
Tulita	1996	450	415	10	335	65	-	-	35
	1991	375	350	2	291	57	...	...	25

Table 96.5 Aboriginal Population, by Community
Northwest Territories, Census Years 1996 & 1991

			Aboriginal Identity						
		Total Population	Total	Inuit	Dene	Métis	Multiple	Other Aboriginal	Non-Aboriginal
Fort Smith Region	1996	30,055	12,030	735	7,930	3,110	125	125	18,025
	1991	27,553	10,558	418	6,901	3,239	...	...	16,995
Detah	1996	190	185	-	180	-	-	-	0
	1991	150	147	-	139	8	...	...	3
Enterprise	1996	90	15	-	-	-	-	-	75
	1991	49	3	-	3	-	...	...	46
Fort Liard	1996	510	440	-	415	10	10	10	75
	1991	485	420	-	384	36	...	...	65
Fort Providence	1996	745	670	10	590	60	-	10	80
	1991	645	592	-	531	61	...	...	53
Fort Resolution	1996	535	485	-	355	120	-	10	50
	1991	515	458	-	217	241	...	...	57
Fort Simpson	1996	1,255	830	25	620	170	-	15	425
	1991	1,142	714	5	556	153	...	...	428
Fort Smith	1996	2,420	1,425	70	605	715	20	15	990
	1991	2,480	1,325	65	439	821	...	...	1,155
Hay River	1996	3,555	1,355	65	510	730	35	20	2,195
	1991	3,206	1,005	30	308	667	...	...	2,201
Hay River Reserve	1996	250	240	-	230	10	-	-	0
	1991	216	212	-	207	5	...	...	4
Jean Marie River	1996	55	50	-	45	-	-	-	10
	1991	49	45	-	45	-	...	...	4
Lutselk'e	1996	305	280	10	270	-	-	-	25
	1991	286	268	-	268	-	...	...	18
Nahanni Butte	1996	75	75	-	70	-	-	-	0
	1991	85	85	-	85	-	...	...	0
Rae Lakes	1996	260	240	-	240	-	-	-	10
	1991	252	252	-	247	5	...	...	0
Rae-Edzo	1996	1,655	1,500	10	1,440	50	-	10	155
	1991	1,521	1,401	4	1,309	88	...	...	120
Snare Lake	1996	135	120	-	120	-	-	-	15
	1991	127	125	-	125	-	...	...	2
Trout Lake	1996	70	60	-	65	-	-	-	10
	1991	66	65	-	61	4	...	...	1
Wha Ti	1996	415	390	-	385	-	-	-	25
	1991	392	380	-	375	5	...	...	12
Wrigley	1996	165	150	-	145	-	-	-	15
	1991	174	161	-	160	1	...	...	13
Yellowknife	1996	17,195	3,420	545	1,560	1,215	60	30	13,780
	1991	15,179	2,607	310	1,213	1,084	...	...	12,572

Definitions

Aboriginal Identity

- Refers to those persons who reported identifying with at least one Aboriginal group, i.e. North American Indian, Métis or Inuit.

Age

- Refers to the age at last birthday (as of the census reference date, May 14, 1996). This variable is derived from date of birth.

Family Status

- Refers to the classification of the population according to whether or not they are members of a census family.

- Family persons refers to household members who belong to a census family. They, in turn, are further classified as follows:
  - Spouses refers to persons of opposite sex who are legally married to each other and living in the same dwelling.
  - Common-law partners are two persons of opposite sex who are not legally married to each other but live together as husband and wife in the same dwelling.
  - Lone parent refers to a mother or a father, with no spouse or common-law partner present, living in a dwelling with one or more never-married sons and/or daughters.
  - Never-married sons and/or daughters refers to blood, step or adopted sons and daughters who have never married (regardless of age) and are living in the same dwelling as their parent(s).

- Non-family persons refers to household members who do not belong to a census family. They may be related to Person 1, the household reference person (e.g., Person 1 is divorced brother, brother-in-law, cousin, grandparent), or unrelated (e.g., lodger, room-mate, employee). A person living alone is always a non-family person.

Knowledge of Languages

- Refers to languages in which the respondent can conduct a conversation.

Mother Tongue

- Refers to the first language learned at home in childhood and still understood by the individual at the time of the census.

Sex

- Refers to the gender of the respondent.

Symbols and Abbreviations

-	zero or too small to be expressed	%	percent
...	not available		

Planned Release Dates for Census Information

April 1997	Population & Dwelling Counts
July 1997	Age & Sex
October 1997	Marital Status, Families (Number, Type & Structure)
November 1997	Citizenship & Immigration
December 1997	Language
January 1998	Aboriginal
February 1998	Ethnic Origin and Visible Minorities
March 1998	Labour Force Activities, Industry, Occupation, Household Activities
April 1998	Education, Mobility & Migration
May 1998	Income
June 1998	Families (Social & Economic Characteristics), Dwellings, Households

For more information contact:

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